

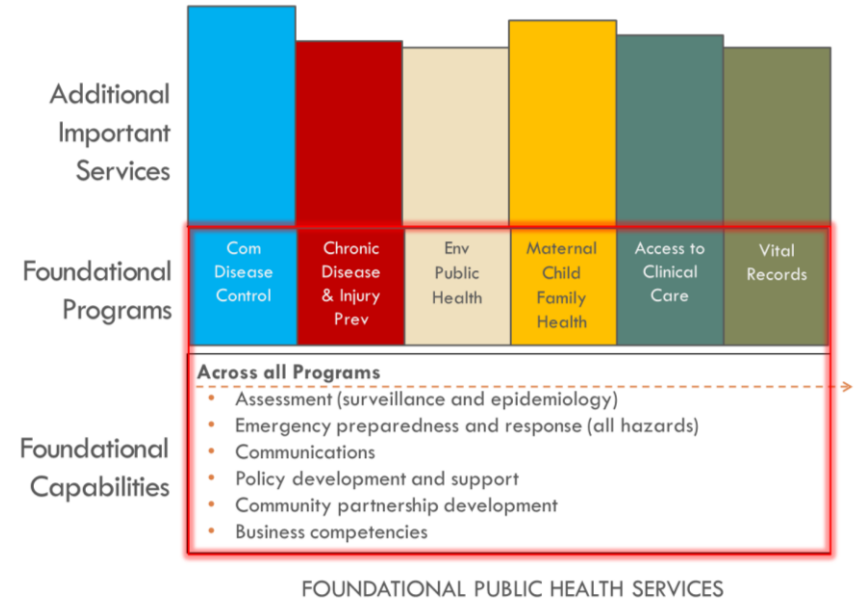
Foundational Services Framework

Foundational public health services are those that must exist everywhere in order to work anywhere. They are the services that no community should be without, regardless of how they are provided.

The definition of foundational services is based on the framework shown in the graphic to the right:

- Public health activities and services are divided into *capabilities* and *programs*.
- Within each *program*, there are a set of activities defined as **Foundational**.
- **Additional Important Services** are examples of activities that the Technical Workgroup considered, and determined not to be foundational.

FRAMEWORK FOR FOUNDATIONAL SERVICES IN WASHINGTON



Relationship to National Efforts

The concept of foundational services has been taken up at both the national and state level, and featured heavily in work by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Washington is leading the way toward a detailed, implementable definition of foundational services, and national efforts are aligning with and being derived by efforts in Washington State.

When creating the foundational definitions, the following guiding principles were used. Foundational services should be:

- Services that should be available to everyone, everywhere
- Services that should be provided by the public sector
- A solid foundation on which additional important services can be added community by community

Within each public health program, individual services were placed on spectra according to key characteristics using both empirical evidence, as well as the judgment of subject matter experts.

Population-based

To what extent is this a population-based service without individually identifiable beneficiaries?

Mainly provides individual benefits

Partially population based, such as an individual health care service the absence of which would pose a significant community health threat

A population-based preventive health service addressing an important health problem, using methods that are evidence-based or best-practices

Governmental public health

To what extent is governmental public health the only or primary provider of this service?

Never – many other entities provide this service and they are the most appropriate provider

Sometimes

Often – it has to be addressed by governmental public health to be effectively addressed at all

Mandatory

Is it mandated by law or contingent on legal powers granted only to the local health officer/board of health?

Not mandated

Partially, or sometimes

Definitely mandated

Could mandates be changed to better align with the new framework?

Services on the far right end of the spectrum for all three characteristics were generally identified as foundational. Some exceptions included currently mandated services that did not align with the other elements of the foundational framework. Conversely, services consistently on the far left were easily excluded. Services that landed in the middle or varied by characteristic required discussion with subject matter experts and several rounds of review by the Technical Workgroup before they were identified as foundational or not.